EXHIBIT "C"

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

MARCIA VEDRAL, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

JAMES FREY, DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC., ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC. d/b/a ANCHOR BOOKS, and RANDOM HOUSE, INC.,

Defendants.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

No. 06CH02089

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Plaintiff, Marcia Vedral, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through their attorneys, Larry D. Drury, Ltd. and John H. Alexander & Associates, LLC. and, complaining against Defendants, James Frey, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. d/b/a Anchor Books, and Random House, Inc. (collectively, "Defendants"), state as follows:

1. James Frey and his publishers captured the hearts and minds of Plaintiff and book lovers who were duped into buying the author's coarse and uplifting "memoir" of recovery from drug alcohol and abuse.

2. Heavily promoted by Oprah Winfrey, the book, *A Million Little Pieces*,[1] has made many millions of dollars, but those sales are attributable to the book's numerous self-styled genuine accounts of Mr. Frey's life destroyed and life reconstructed that never really happened. (*See A*

[1] References herein to "A Million Little Pieces" or the "book" or "memoir" are to this book as published in any media format, e.g., print and audio compact disc (CD).

Million Little Pieces, last page of the story and covers, promotions and flaps attached thereto. Exhibit A.) Though the book is marketed and styled as an inspirational memoir, in January 2006, following recent embarrassing media disclosures Mr. Frey virtually admitted that key accounts in his book amount to nothing more than pure fabrication.

3. Plaintiff seeks relief for herself and other readers who purchased the book and did not get what they paid for, but instead, were induced by each of the defendants to buy (or read) a phony so-called "memoir" of Mr. Frey's genuine accounts of triumph over adversity.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has jurisdiction in this case pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/2-209, in that the Defendants have transacted business and committed acts relating to the matters complained of herein in this state.

5. Cook County is a proper venue for this action pursuant 735 ILCS 5/2-101 and 5/2-102, in that the transaction or some part thereof out of which this cause of action arose occurred within Cook County, and because the Defendants conduct business in Cook County and at least one of the Defendants is authorized to transact business in Illinois.

PARTIES

6. At all relevant times, Plaintiff, Marcia Vedral, resided in Cook County, Illinois. She purchased *A Million Little Pieces* in November or December 2005, published by the Defendants, at Border's Books located in Mt. Prospect, Cook County, Illinois, because she had seen the book deceptively promoted by Mr. Frey on the Oprah Winfrey show, and by the Defendants on or in the book itself (e.g., Exhibit A), as a true account of the author's battles as a drug addict and of the author's recovery.

7. Defendant James Frey is the author of *A Million Little Pieces* and is, with respect to the conduct herein alleged, an agent of each of the publisher Defendants, in writing, promoting, marketing and representing the book as a memoir and true and honest work of non-fiction. Mr. Frey undertook said acts in Cook County, Illinois and elsewhere, and continuously transacts business in Cook County, Illinois in that, at all relevant times, he has profited from sales of the book, represented as described herein, in Cook County, Illinois. Mr. Frey received a hefty cash advance from the publisher-Defendants for the sale of the book and on information and belief receives a portion of the profit from sales of the book.

8. Defendant, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., a book publisher and a division and agent of Defendant Random House, Inc., promoted, marketed, published, represented and caused to be sold, the book, *A Million Little Pieces*, under the respected Anchor Books brand name, on behalf of itself and Random House, Inc., to and for consumption by Plaintiff and the Class, as a memoir and true and honest work of non-fiction. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., undertook said acts in Cook County, Illinois and elsewhere, and continuously transacts business in Illinois.

9. Defendant Doubleday & Company, Inc. ("Doubleday"), a division and agent of Defendant Random House, Inc. and a respected name in the publishing industry, promoted, marketed, published, represented, and caused to be sold, the book, *A Million Little Pieces*, on behalf of itself and Random House, Inc., to and for consumption by Plaintiff and the Class as a memoir and true and honest work of non-fiction. Doubleday undertook said acts in Cook County, Illinois and elsewhere, and continuously transacts business in Illinois. Ms. Nan A. Talese is a Senior Vice President of Doubleday and the Publisher and Editorial Director of Nan

A. Talese/Doubleday, a trade book publishing imprint that also published *A Million Little Pieces*. Ms. Talese is listed as one of the publishers of Plaintiff's book.

10. Defendant Random House, Inc., a well-known publishing house that readers trust and respect, promoted, marketed, published, represented and caused to be sold, the book, *A Million Little Pieces* to and for consumption by Plaintiff and the Class as a memoir and true and honest work of non-fiction. Random House, Inc. perpetrated said acts in Cook County, Illinois and elsewhere, and continuously transacts business in Illinois.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

11. *A Million Little Pieces* is styled and promoted as a true account of Mr. Frey's life as a destructive, drug-addicted young adult who resurrects his life in a rehabilitation program.

12. Mr. Frey reportedly told Cleveland's *Plain Dealer* in a May 2003 interview that the book was straight non-fiction, claiming that his publisher, Doubleday, "contacted the people I wrote about in the book. All the events depicted in the book checked out as factually accurate. I changed people's names. I do believe in the anonymity part of AA. The only things I changed were aspects of people that might reveal their identity. Otherwise, it's all true." (*See* thesmokinggun.com.)

13. However, the book was only published as a memoir after it was reportedly shopped as a novel to numerous publishing houses, each of which declined to publish the book. Mr. Frey has reportedly stated that it was his publishers' decision to publish the book as a memoir.

14. The book gained increased popularity resulting from Oprah Winfrey's endorsement of the redemptive tale as part of her well-known "Book Club." Moreover, in the October 26, 2005, Oprah Winfrey television show entitled "The Man Who Kept Oprah Awake at Night," Winfrey